SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: It has appeared in the Press. Harijans' and advises' houses have been burnt in Gosmara, in Dumdum, in Athmali, in Dhenkanal, in Gobindpur, in Brajrajnagar.

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly what I have been saying.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I can understand, Sir, that it is the duty of the State Government. But when advises and Harijans are affected, it is a constitutional obligation of the Centre. What is the recourse? You kindly give us the protection. Kindly direct us what do we do? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*) Now you have asked a question. I am trying to respond. Now you have asked what you can do. You can ask your colleagues in the Legislative Assembly to raise it there. What is the point in raising those points over which this Parliament has no jurisdiction - whether it is against some person or it is about municipal elections or somebody, as was raised yesterday also? We are all guilty of this - raking up the matter over which we have no jurisdiction.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: The reason I ask is that the elections are held under the Representation of the People Act. Secondly, Constitution guarantees life and liverty to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

MR. SPEAKER: Municipal elections are under State Government. You know it very well, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): You are giving a right suggestion to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you tell Mr. Ramashray Prasad Singh the same thing. (*Interruptions*) This applies to him also.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Unfortunately, the Congress Party is not having a Legislature Party inside the Orissa Assembly. That is the whole problem. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member from Punjab is to speak for the first time here. So, I request the hon. Members to show him courtesy.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar): Honourable Speaker, a fresh wave of terror and violence has started raising it ugly head in Punjab. This terror wave has already claimed its victims, that is, a section of employees especially teachers who participated in the conduct of elections. There is total fear psychosis among the polling personnel numbering about one lakh or so and they are receiving threats to their physical security. There is an imminent danger to their families also. The militants have threatened them, especially the teachers, that they would be eliminated as and when the schools open in the first week of March. As already known, the voters and supporters of political parties are already under the threats of physical elimination.

If the present threats to the polling personnel who have discharged their duties in the interest of the nation, are allowed to materials, then the people will lose faith in the Government and the credibility of the administration will also surfer an irreparable loss.

I have received hundreds of messages from the affected personnel in this regard. In such a grave situation, when the lives of lakhs of employees, especially teachers, are at stake, I want to draw the attention of the Home Minister to this matter of extreme urgent importance so that all out effective measures could immediately be taken to

pre-empt any violence in Punjab in this respect. If more paramilitary forces are required by the State, the same should be despatched forthwith. Any other measures in this respect should be taken at once.(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of there being the Government of the Bhartiya Janata Party that gives the slogan of society free of fear. ...(*Interruptions*) This matter relates to women. Please keep silence ....(*Interruptions*) I should be allowed to speak at least about the injustice being meted out to our daughters and daughters-in-law. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, harassment of women is going on. Women are being gang-raped under the influence of the police and the leaders. The women of Paddevna village in Deoria district were raped only because their family members had filed a criminal suit against the station incharge. The station incharge along with his full force went to the house of those four women, spripped the women naked and then they gang-raped them. They threw away all their household articles. They inserted sticks into their private parts and poured petrol into them. This is great humiliation for them. Who would defined such actions in the country? Do the women have no honour? A man dies once in a massacre but a women victim of rape dies every moment and has to suffer humiliation every moment in society.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once I had stated that the problem of providing protection to women is very serious and a meeting of all the Chief Ministers should be called to discuss the question of providing security and protection to women and to consider taking stringent steps for this purpose. But my suggestion was not paid any attention because it was related to women. On the one hand, his excellency Mr. President in his Address states that women are the most vulnerable section our society. They are called goddess incarnate and it is talked of giving them due representation. On the other hand, these women face such humiliation every day and nobody checks the wrong doers. Leaders also are among the rapists. The Minister of Home Affairs of that State ....*.... had given the slogan of "Fearless society", but such misbehaviour with women have taken place in his home town itself.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Names will not go on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Shri Harikewal Prasad went to lodge a report the District Magistrate told him that he had come to know only then. It is strange that such a serious incident related to women had happened and the inspector himself was the culprit and no action was taken against him. The problem of women is not of a particular State only, it is a problem of whole of the country. Therefore, stern action should be taken against such incidents. I urge upon you that regardless of the posts held by culprits, stern action should be taken against them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, once again I would like to request you that a meeting of all the Chief Ministers should be convened and the question of security of women should be discussed and instructions should be issued to take stern action against those who maltreat women.

The Minister of Home Affairs should made a statement as Why did such an incidents take place? The wrong doors are still roaming scot free. Action should be

*Not recorded.